

that the claims did not quite distinguish themselves from Habing. The Applicant filed an amendment and response to the Final Office Action on August 5, 1999, but in an Advisory Action dated September 1, 1999, the Examiner indicated that amendment would not be entered because it would raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. Accordingly, the Applicant is filing this CPA.

The Applicant has amended all independent claims 1, 16, and 17 to make clear that, in the present invention, the LCD housing is performing two distinct functions; the light pipe function and the protective cover or housing function. The prior art, of course, used two distinct structural elements to perform these function, whereas here, only one -- the LCD housing -- is being used. This novel aspect of the present invention is particularly pointed out in each of the independent claims. See claim 1 ("wherein the LCD housing functions as a light pipe for conducting light from the light source to the LCD and protects the LCD"), claim 16 ("second means for housing the display panel, wherein the second means functions as a light pipe and conducts light between the first means for generating light and the display panel"), and claim 17 ("wherein the LCD housing functions as a light pipe for illuminating the LCD and protects the LCD"). Quite simply, neither Habing nor any other cited reference discloses that the LCD housing may function as a light pipe as disclosed and claimed. These independent claims and, *a fortiori*, claims dependent therefrom, are allowable over all cited references.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and preceding remarks, it is urged respectfully that the rejection of the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed. However,

if the Examiner believes that any issues remain unresolved, he is invited to telephone the undersigned to expedite allowance. Upon receiving the Notice of Allowance, the applicant will submit formal drawings.

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Respectfully submitted,

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